

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 SAJ-01 CU-04

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TAGS: PFOR, CH, TH

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER THANOM ON TRADE WITH CHINA

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCEPRTS ON
THAI TRADE WITH CHINA FROM PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN'S
SEPTEMBER 19 PRESS CONFERENCE:

1. KHUN THIRANUT OF "PRACHATHIPATAI" HAS SENT IN A QUESTION
ON THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE DEPUTY PREMIER OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO A THAI REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANYING A THAI
SPORTS TEAM TO PEKING, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN
CHINA AND THAILAND HAVE EXISTED FOR AS LONG AS 2,000 YEARS,
THEREFORE CONTACTS OUGHT TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE. SHE
WISHES TO KNOW MY VIEW ON THIS STATMENT, WHEN TRADE WITH
CHINA WILL BE STARTED IN EARNEST AND WHETHER CHINA HAS DEMAN-
DED ANY CONDITIONS.

2. WE HAVE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND
AND CHINA HAVE EXISTED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES BECAUSE WE THAIS
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CAME FROM CHINA AND WE ORIGINALLY LIVED IN CHINA. IT IS TRUE

THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN US HAVE EXISTED FOR OVER 2,000 YEARS, AS STATED BY THE DEPUTY PREMIER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE THAI BADMINTON TEAM THAT WENT TO PEKING LAST MONTH TO HOLD CONTESTS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE THAIS APPRECIATE THE TRUTH OF THIS STATEMENT HE MADE AND WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, DATING BACK TO ANCIENT TIMES, SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

3. AS YOU HAVE SEEN ALREADY, WHEN OUR BADMINTON TEAM RETURNED A THAI TABLE TENNIS TEAM WENT TO TAKE PART IN THE TRICONTINENTAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS HELD IN PEKING. THUS HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ATHLETES AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WHEN PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO VISIT ONE ANOTHER, IT CREATES GOOD UNDERSTANDING, MUTUAL SYMPATHY, AND COMPROMISES BEING REACHED IN VARIOUS MATTERS BOTH SIDES HAVE JOINT INTERESTS IN. THAILAND WILL MOST PROBABLY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WEICOME A BADMINTON TEAM FROM THE CHINA MAINLAND, RETURNING THE VISIT MADE BY OUR TEAM. IN ADDITION TO THE EXCHANGE OF SPORTS TEAMS WE MAY EXCHANGE TECHNICIANS IN THE FUTURE, SUCH AS MEDICAL GROUPS.

4. TRADE WITH THE CHINA MAINLAND WILL MOST PROBABLY BE STARTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE THE CABINET HAS PAVED THE WAY BY AMENDING AN ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, AN ANENDNENT THAT HAS BEEN PASSED IN ALL STAGES BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ALREADY. THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE IS MAKING PREPARATIONS AND THIS MIGHT TAKE ABOUT 2-3 MONTHS, BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY FOR PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE IN FULL TO ENSURE SMOOTH AND SATISFACTORY OPERATION OF TRADE WHEN IT IS STARTED. WE MUST SET UP AN ORGANIZATION OR A UNIT TO CARRY ON TRADE AT GOVERNMENT TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL, THEN THROUGH CONSIDERATION WILL HAVE TO BE PAID TO GOODS WE WILL BUY FROM CHINA AND WHAT GOODS WE HAVE IT NEEDS, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE A PROPER BALANCE OF TRADE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST ANYBODY BE ALLOWED TO BUY OR SELL ANYTHING AS HE PLEASES. ALL GOODS. CHINA OFFERS TO SELL US WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE FIRST IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER WE REALLY NEED THOSE RESPECTIVE GOODS QUOTED, AS WELL AS WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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WE COULD BUY THAM ELSEWHERE AT LOWER PRICES. AFTER THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CONSIDERS THAT NAY GOODS ARE SUITABLE, OF GOOD QUALITY, AND AT LOWER PRICES THAN QUOTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY FOR USE IN OUR COUNTRY, THAN HE WILL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE CABINET FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL. HE WILL NOT POSSESS THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE ANY DECISION OR REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. WE ARE MAKING ALL PREPARATIONS IN A CAREFUL AND THOROUGH

MANNER, THEREFORE THIS WILL TAKE TIME. IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION WHETHER CHINA HAS DEMANDED ANY CONDITIONS CONCERNING TRADE, SINCE NO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD YET WE ARE NOT ABLE TO KNOW WHETHER IT WILL DEMAND ANY CONDITIONS. A DECISION WAS REACHED BY THE CABINET TO TRADE WITH RED CHIAN ONLY VERY RECENTLY, ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF LAST MONTH. SHOULD CHINA EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR IT TO SEND A TRADE GROUP TO ATTEND ITS TRADE FAIR TO BE HELD IN CANTON NEXT MONTH, WE MIGHT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD TALKS WITH IT ON TRADE CONTACTS TO BE SET UP IN THE FUTURE.

5. REPORTER: HAS IT EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO US YET?

THANOM: NOT YET.
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